

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-23 were examined. According to the Patent Office claims 1-11 appear to be allowable. The Applicants wish to thank the Patent Office for allowing claims 1-11. Claims 17 and 23 are amended. Claims 14-16, 20 and 22 are canceled. Claims 1-11, 17-19, 21 and 23 remain in the Application.

Specification

The Patent Office objects to the calcium concentration in paragraph [0032] of the Specification of the Application. With respect to the Specification, see the Specification section. With respect to the calculation of calcium see Appendix A.

Claim 17 and 23 are amended as recommended by the Patent Office. Claim 17 was rewritten as recommended by the Patent Office as an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims (see Claims). Amended claim 17 falls within the scope of the invention and therefore overcomes the objection by the Patent Office. Claim 23 was rewritten as recommended by the Patent Office as an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim (see Claims). Amended claim 23 falls within the scope of the invention and therefore overcomes the objection by the Patent Office.

Claims 17 and 23 have been amended to overcome the objection of the Patent Office. Claims 18, 19, 21, 23 depend from claim 14 and therefore contain all the limitations of that claim. For at least the above stated reason with respect to claim 17, claim(s) 18, 19, 21, 23 fall within the scope of the invention.

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Claims Rejection-35 U.S.C. §102/103

With respect to the rejections, the Patent Office rejects claims 14-16, 20, 22 under 35U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by and alternatively under 35U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Liska et al. (US Patent No. 6,051,260, Liska). In order to expedite the prosecution, the applicant wishes to cancel claims 14-16, 20, 22 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome by the amendments and remarks, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed and such action is requested at the earliest possible date.

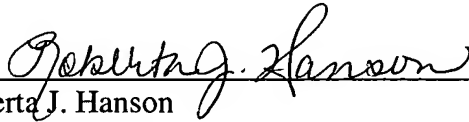
Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

The calcium concentration in paragraph [32] was calculated the following way. See Example 1 paragraph [107].

Calcium is added to the mixture in the form of calcium lactate. Calcium is 13 percent of the calcium lactate compound. Therefore, the total grams of calcium in the mixture is 0.5 grams ($0.13 \times 3.57 = 0.5$).

Calcium at 0.5 grams divided by the total volume (240 ml) multiplied by 100 equals 0.21 percent ($0.5 / 240 \times 100 = 0.21$ percent). Thus, this amount is equivalent to the organic acidifier.

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